

# JA Finance Park<sup>®</sup> Entry Level: Self-Guided Curriculum

## Program Brief | Initial Release

*JA Finance Park* is Junior Achievement's capstone curriculum for personal financial planning and career exploration. This student self-guided classroom curriculum culminates with a *JA Finance Park* simulation experience, that may be completed virtually or at a realistic on-site or mobile facility.

The new self-guided curriculum provides students a more independent learning experience as compared to the traditional classroom curriculum. Students will engage in a series of interactive screencasts, video and fillable PDF activities. Educators introduce the curriculum assignments to students and provide opportunity for student reflection and discussion. The frequency of student-teacher engagement is flexible. Implementation can be accomplished whether students are in a remote, face-to-face, or hybrid learning environment.

### Self-Guided Curriculum Highlights

- *JA Finance Park* self-guided curriculum is a fully online learning experience that students can access inside or outside the classroom.
- Sessions engage students in narrated interactive screencasts, videos, and downloadable activities.
- Each student participating in the *JA Finance Park* self-guided curriculum will require a digital device and access to the Internet.
- Self-guided modules are student self-paced and each one averages five to ten minutes in length.
- Student activity pages include fillable PDF documents suitable for teacher grading if desired.
- Available for educator and student use in October 2020.

This program has a primary focus of the JA Financial Literacy Pathway with a secondary focus of the JA Work and Career Readiness Pathway and can be used in Grades 7–12. The program is primarily teacher-led with volunteer engagement options that include recorded video, subject matter expert guest speaker, and simulation support.

### Self-Guided Curriculum Outline

#### Theme One: Income

Students determine work preferences, rate their interests, abilities and values and then match them to career goals. They will define taxes and explain their purpose and impact on income as well as calculate net monthly income. This theme consists of 4 narrated screencast modules and 1 volunteer pre-recorded video. Module activities average five to ten minutes in length. Students also complete activity pages following the modules.

### **Theme Two: Saving, Investing, and Risk Management**

Students explore why saving money is critical, and learn about short- and long-term savings options as a part of their overall financial planning. They also examine risk and how insurance may help protect savings. This theme consists of 4 narrated screencast modules, 2 volunteer pre-recorded videos, and student activity pages.

### **Theme Three: Debit and Credit**

Students compare financial institutions and their services. They also weigh the advantages and disadvantages of debit and credit. Finally, students examine the role credit scores and credit reporting have on personal finances. This theme consists of 3 narrated screencast modules and 3 volunteer pre-recorded videos. Student activity pages follow the modules.

### **Theme Four: Budget +**

Students discover the importance of spending money wisely and recognize a budget as a valuable tool. They analyze spending patterns and create personal budgets based on saving and lifestyle goals and day-to-day situations. This theme consists of 4 narrated screencast modules, 3 volunteer pre-recorded videos, and student activity pages.

### **Theme Five: Simulation**

Students will participate in the *JA Finance Park* simulation. The simulation can be completed in a virtual, site-based or mobile format.

### **Theme Six: Debrief and Reflection**

Students will reflect on the activities they participated in during the *JA Finance Park* simulation and engage in an activity to connect their learnings and takeaways from the simulation to their future career and money management goals. Students also have an opportunity to complete the program post-test to determine their knowledge gain over the course of the program. There is 1 volunteer pre-recorded video and a student activity page.